Recycling of Rice for BPL Families in Orissa

1976. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Orissa there was recycling of rice meant for the BPL families as reported in the "New Indian Express," Bhubancshwar dated the 16th June, 2001; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (b) According to the information received from Government of Orissa, there are stray allegations about recycling of BPL rice. Collectors, SPs and Vigilance Department have been instructed to remain alert on this matter and take immediate action including action under Prevention of Black Marketing Act. Raids are conducted on the premises of mills and godowns of rice millers.

Wheat Shipments to Iraq

1977. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wheat shipment sent by India to Iraq under "Food for Oil" arrangement during the last six months and the number of shipments rejected by Iraq on the plea that the quality was not upto the mark;

(b) whether wheat sent by India was not checked before its despatch;

(c) whether shipments were diverted to some other country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Iraq has rejected all the four consignments of wheat sent from India during the last six months.

(b) An inspection Agency approved by the Grain Board of Iraq had inspected the Cargo prior to shipment and declared the wheat consignment fit for human consumption and conforming to the quality specifications of the Iraqi Order.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The consignments were reportedly diverted by the exporters to other destinations in Middle East where the buyers accepted the same.

Cut in Allotment of Sugar to States

1978. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to cut down allotment of sugar supply to the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to entrust procurement and distribution of food items to the State Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The issue of decentralization of procurement of foodgrains was discussed in the Chief Ministers Conference on 21.5.2001 and in the meeting of the Standing Committee of Union Ministers and Chief Ministers of Food Management and Agriculture Exports on 6.7.2001. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, J&K, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Gujarat and Assam expressed their inability to adopt the scheme of decentralized procurement due to various reasons such as lack of funds, infrastructure, trained manpower etc. The States of Karnataka, Goa, Himachal Pradesh and Chattisgarh expressed that the scheme could be adopted after suitable modalities are worked out. In the first meeting of the Standing Committee held on 6.7.2001, it was clarified that the scheme would not be imposed on any State Government. The scheme of decentralized procurement has already been adopted by